(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government to strictly regulate private sector aviation to avoid accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Leakage of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus passengers

4385. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether list of passengers, who were to travel by the inaugural bus between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad was leaked; and

(b) if so, the action taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Defence did not prepare the list of passengers who were to travel by the inaugural bus between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad. As per available reports list of passengers registered for Srinagar-Muzaffarabad inaugural bus journey was not leaked by the Indian side.

Problems in construction of ADS

†4386.SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Indian Navy has started constructing Air Defence Ship;

(b) whether it is also true that the date for steel cutting has already been fixed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is true that the Government first decided to manufacture aircraft carrier of 10-12000 tonnes capacity;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether it is true that the Navy is facing some challenges on designing; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(g) if so, the details of the challanges that Navy is facing?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (g) Government has approved the indigenous construction of a 37,500 Metric Tons Air Defence Ship (ADS) at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, for the Indian Navy. The initial approval was for a carrier of 24,000 Metric Tons. In view of the strategic importance and role of the ADS, the capacity was increased.

A contract for procurement of special quality steel from M/s Steel Authority of India Limited for the construction of ship has been signed and steel was cut on 11th April, 2005 marking the commencement of production of the ADS.

Contracts have been signed by Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi with M/s Fincantieri, an Italian shipyard, for undertaking design, integration, installation and commissioning of the propulsion system for the Air Defence Ship and for consultancy in detailed engineering and documentation. The naval design office has also successfully completed the structural design and the hull form for the platform.

Construction of ADS

4387. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first indigenously designed 37,5000 tonnes heavy aircraft carriers, tentatively christened "Air Defence Ship" (ADS) is being built at Cochin shipyard;

(b) if so, the special features of the indigenous carriers *vis-a-vis* those deployed by other countries;

(c) the details of the cost involved and time schedule fixed for completion of the project; and

(d) the status of the similar heavy aircraft carriers already in use by the Indian Navy and the extent to which the new addition is expected to boost the Navy's aspiration for adequate power projection in the Indian Ocean region?